



Sheila Dixon

*Mayor,
Baltimore*

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

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CONTACT:
Anthony McCarthy
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)

Mayor Dixon Announces 2007 Baltimore City Heritage Area Grant Award Recipients

Baltimore, MD (October 2, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon announced the 2007 Baltimore City Heritage Area grant award recipients, including the Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park, Baltimore Maritime Museum, USS Constellation Foundation, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc., Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum, and St James Development Corporation.

“I am committed to supporting Baltimore’s historic legacy for future generations,” said Mayor Dixon. “The

The Baltimore City Heritage Area (BCHA) Small Cap Grant Program is a source of funding designed to provide small but strategic investments in cultural heritage tourism capital projects within the BCHA. Grant awards are made from the BCHA Project Fund, an item within Baltimore City’s Capital Improvement Program. The Fund currently provides matching grants of up to \$10,000 for capital projects within the Baltimore City Heritage Area.

On April 12, 2007, Mayor Dixon submitted a National Heritage Area Feasibility Study for the Baltimore Heritage Area to the National Park Service. National Heritage Area designation will bring new recognition and technical and financial benefits to the natural, historical and cultural resources of the BCHA (see www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/). Mayor Dixon is working with Maryland’s Congressional delegation on legislation to create a Baltimore National Heritage Area.

Award Recipients:

Baltimore Maritime Museum received \$5,000 to repair and restore the deck stripping on the USS TORSK. Commissioned in 1944, USS TORSK operated from Pearl Harbor and made two war patrols off Japan during the spring and summer of 1945. During her first Pacific patrol, TORSK carried out guard duties for American aircraft engaged in bombing raids on Japan. TORSK was underway on her second war patrol from July until September 1945 and was credited with sinking three Japanese ships. The first of these, a freighter was torpedoed on the afternoon of August 13th, and the following day TORSK

sank two Japanese coastal defense frigates which were the last enemy warships torpedoed in all of World War II.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum received \$9,000 for the restoration of adaptive reuse of the Leonard J. Buxton – Lounge Café car. Located at the original site of the historic Mt. Clare Shops in southwest Baltimore, the B&O Railroad Museum is the birthplace of American railroading. It was here within the Museum's 40-acre campus that Baltimore businessmen, surveyors, and engineers set about building the B&O Railroad in 1829 – laying the first commercial long-distance track, building the first passenger station, and inventing America's unique railroad. Railroad work has been conducted at Mt. Clare for over 130 years and it continues today.

Baltimore Museum of Industry received \$8,000 to repair to the museum's 140 year-old entrance way and prepare area for new orientation exhibit. At the BMI you can experience the accomplishments and milestones that Baltimoreans and Marylanders contributed to the nation and the world by learning more about Baltimore's role as one of the busiest and most important ports in America.

Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. received \$5,000 to repair roofs on the Oliver Mansion and Museum facilities. The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum is a unique museum, the first one of wax in Baltimore and the first wax museum of African American history in the nation that presents life-size wax figures highlighting historical and contemporary personalities of African ancestry.

Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park received \$9,000 for the reconstruction of protective housing for the Marine Railway hauling mechanism and installation of stanchions. The Maritime Park highlights African American maritime history, Douglass's life in Baltimore, the life of Isaac Myers, a free born African American who became a national leader, the founding of the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company, the establishment of the African American Community in Baltimore during the 1800's, and shipbuilding traditions of the Chesapeake Bay.

St. James Development Corp. received \$5,000 for renovate and restore the historic property on W. Lafayette Avenue for use as the St. James Development Corp headquarters. St. James Development Corp provides affordable housing along with a network of support services. Located near Lafayette Square in West Baltimore, at the center the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District with over 5000 contributing structures, it is one of the largest predominately African American historic districts in the country.

USS Constellation Foundation received \$9,000 to repair water intrusion and rot in the upper levels of the hull. USS Constellation was the last tall ship built by the US Navy before steam replaced wind as the standard means of power. It was launched in 1854, just before the Civil War, and was named after the first Constellation, a 1797 frigate built in Baltimore.

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